

Surat khabar: The Star, Sarawak (News)

Hari/Tarikh: 22/5/2013

Muka surat: S10

Tajuk : Lucky Students See World's Biggest Flower In Full Bloom.

## Lucky students see world's biggest flower in full bloom

**KUCHING:** Gunung Gading National Park might be home to the world's biggest flower, the *Rafflesia tuan-mudae*, but it takes a lot of knowledge and some luck for visitors to actually see one in full bloom.

Because of that, 96 second year Plant Resource Science Management students of Universiti Malaysia Sarawak's Faculty of Resource Science and Technology were over the moon when they visited the park last weekend.

The group found one of the flowers in full bloom. Measuring about 75cm in diameter, it had five thick fleshy reddish-orange petals, and raised warts and blotches.

And true to its "smelly" reputation, it gave off a pungent odour — much like that of a decaying fish — an attractant to the carrion flies as its pollinator.

This species is endemic to Sarawak and it is gazetted as a totally protected plant under the Sarawak Wildlife Ordinance.

The students and the staff felt that this was the most rewarding field-work they had carried out as they were able to see the rare and most magnificent representative of the world's giant flower.

The field trip was held to give the students, who were lead by the course coordinator Jamilah Jamel and five other colleagues, a better understanding of the basic skills in plant identification and to inculcate in them a stronger interest in biodiversity and environment.